

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00469 221135Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 221058Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5320

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 0469

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, IS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE BORDER SITUATION

REF: TEL AVIV DAO 211220Z JAN 75.

1. ADDRESSEES WILL BE INTERESTED IN REF DAO MESSAGE WHICH REPORTS COMMENTS OF GENERAL GAZIT, DMI, TO OUR DATT RE LEBANESE BORDER SITUATION AND RELATED TOPICS. GAZIT PLAYS DOWN IMPORTANCE OF RECENT CLASHES, WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT GOI IS MOST UPSET ABOUT ARRIVAL FROM SYRIA OF ADDITIONAL PLO/PLA/SAIQA FORCES. GAZIT ALSO MAKES CLEAR INTENTION OF ISRAELIS TO CONTINUE TO HIT FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON AS THEY BELIEVE NECESSARY, AND STATES THAT THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IDF ACTIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND WIDER ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES.

2. COMMENT: GAZIT'S COMMENTS RE LACK OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IDF ACTIONS IN LEBANON AND ANY OTHER ISSUES IS STANDARD ISRAELI VIEW WHICH MAKES ATTEMPTS TO DISCUSS ISSUE HERE UNPRODUCTIVE. OCCASIONALLY, ISRAELIS CONCEDE THERE COULD BE RELATIONSHIP AT LEAST BETWEEN IDF ACTIONS AND FEDAYEEN "REINFORCEMENTS" FROM SYRIA, HANNA ZEMER ARTICLE ON JAN 6 (TEL AVIV 0119) TOOK A CAUTIONARY VIEW ABOUT IMPACT OF ISRAELI

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POLICIES ON LEBANESE INTERNAL SITUATION AND TADMOR (DAVAR)

ON JAN 21 (TEL AVIV 0441) STRESSED NEED FOR ISRAEL TO REACT TO ESCALATION ALONG BORDER WITH MAXIMUM OF DELICACY AND RESTRAINT IN ORDER TO AVOID WAR HYSTERIA AND TO PREVENT DETERIORATION OF SITUATION. SUCH VIEWS ARE EXCEPTIONAL, HOWEVER, AND MOST ISRAELIS BELIEVE ONUS IS SQUARELY ON SYRIA AND LEBANON TO ENSURE THAT SITUATION DOES NOT ESCALATE TO DANGEROUS PROPORTIONS.

3. AS FOR EGYPT, EVRON (MFA) RECENTLY GAVE US SAME REPLY AS GAZIT, NOTING SADAT HAD NOT REACTED TO LATEST FLARE-UP. VELIOTES

SECRET

NNN

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